

It is clear we must begin taking steps to reduce U.S. emissions and the Climate Stewardship Act lays out a scientifically sound, economically feasible and environmentally progressive formula for doing so.

By limiting the combined global warming emissions of major polluters, creating a trading market for emissions allowances and reductions through a National Greenhouse Gas Database, and funding transition assistance for workers, industries and consumers, this bill takes a responsible first step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a way that is timely, meaningful and cost-effective.

The Climate Stewardship Act targets emissions from the electricity generation, transportation, industrial, and commercial economic sectors, which together account for 85 percent of overall U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. (Starting in 2010, the bill would cap U.S. aggregate emissions for the covered sectors at the 2000 level. The bill's emissions limits would not apply to the agricultural and the residential sectors.)

It applies a successful, market-based approach to reducing emissions, and the result will be cleaner air and a healthier environment.

The Climate Stewardship Act charts a new, more responsible course on climate policy and reflects a cognizance of the very real threat global warming poses to our Nation and the rest of the world.

We simply will not have a world to live in if we continue our neglectful ways.

#### CHILD NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT AND INTEGRITY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I supported H.R. 3873, the Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act last week on the House floor and again commend Chairman BOEHNER, Ranking Member MILLER, Subcommittee Chairman CASTLE and Ranking Member WOOLSEY for their hard work and collaboration on a bipartisan bill which continues to feed our Nation's children.

However, due to our Nation's budget being in the red, it is bothersome that we can not feed more of our Nation's children whose parents are hard working Americans. It is bothersome that there are children whose families can not even afford the reduced price meals but are simply not poor enough to receive free lunch. With over 500 school boards and many state boards of education urging Congress to eliminate the reduced price charge—Congress has replied with “we just can not afford to help your children eat”.

It is also bothersome that some in Congress feel that it is inappropriate to recommend what foods are healthy and should be given to students and what unhealthy foods should be kept off the menu. The argument is why would schools attempt to provide healthy foods when students can simply get the unhealthy foods outside of school. Should our schools begin to give up on a student in the 9th or 10th grade because neither parent graduated high school? Should our schools not teach a stu-

dent to read because neither parent is literate nor does the home provides newspapers or books to read? Should our schools not teach algebra, geometry, or calculus because the parent can only do simply math with a calculator?

Our schools have been the stepping stone to a better life for many individuals than the life of which their parents had academically, socially, emotionally and there is no reason why nutritionally can not be added to the list.

Mr. Speaker, I supported this reauthorization last week—but only wish we could have done more to prevent more children from going hungry.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM DeMINT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall vote 88. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on the vote.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN RINO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute today to John Rino for his admirable service and dedication to his Trinidad, Colorado community. His volunteer efforts for Trinidad seniors were recently recognized at the Harry R. Sayre Senior Center where a new wing was dedicated in his name. I would like to congratulate John on receiving this honor and thank him for his unwavering commitment to the City of Trinidad and the State of Colorado.

An active member in city politics, John served on the Trinidad city council for sixteen years, and served for two terms as mayor. During his years in public service, John was instrumental in making significant improvements to the city. He organized the county ambulance district, saw that neglected streets were paved, saw that wooden water transmission lines were replaced with metal lines, and extended water lines to areas of the city that were not previously provided with city water. For the last sixteen years, John has volunteered his time with the senior citizen center, organizing and cooking spaghetti dinner fund-raisers that usually have 150 or more people in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that John Rino is a person who possesses dedication and commitment to his pursuit of public service, and it is my distinct pleasure to honor John before this body of Congress and this nation today. Naming the new wing after John is the center's way of saying thanks for his selfless efforts and leadership, and is a well-deserved testament to his ongoing efforts to better his community. I wish John all the best in his future endeavors.

#### LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM TREA SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE

**HON. GENE TAYLOR**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in January I introduced H.J. Res. 88, a bill proposing a Constitutional amendment to make the Social Security trust funds, the Medicare trust funds, the military retirement trust fund, and the civil service retirement trust fund off-budget so that the annual budget deficit will reflect the true costs of the obligations that accrue each year.

My bill has been endorsed by the TREA Senior Citizens League, an affiliate of The Retired Enlisted Association. I would like to insert the letter of support from George A. Smith, Chairman of TREA Senior Citizens League into the RECORD:

JANUARY 15, 2004.

Hon. GENE TAYLOR  
Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TAYLOR: TSCL, a non-partisan advocacy organization consisting of some 1.2 million members and supporters nationwide, understands that you intend to reintroduce a constitutional amendment resolution that would lock Social Security, Medicare and military retirement trust funds off budget. On behalf of our members and supporters, I want to convey our strong support for your resolution.

Contrary to popular belief, Social Security and other trust fund monies are not kept separate from other government funds. The government uses those monies when it needs to, and simply writes an IOU to the trust fund. I believe the American people would be outraged if they truly understood this was happening.

Also, because of the way the government counts the surpluses that we have in the various trust funds, the deficit appears to be less than it really is. Once again, I believe if the American people would see the true size of the deficit, there would be an end to business as usual in Washington. As Comptroller General David Walker said in a September 2003 speech, “while we are starting off in a financial hole, we don't really have a very good picture of how deep it is” because the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget's current measurement and scorekeeping approaches relay an incomplete and misleading picture of the government's financial condition.” [Roll Call, September 18, 2003]

TSCL also applauds the approach you are taking by introducing a constitutional amendment resolution. If legislation only were to be enacted, we believe that Congress and the White House would ignore or work around the law. This is why it is imperative that a constitutional amendment be ratified.

TSCL's parent organization is The Retired Enlisted Association. As such, we are especially grateful for the protections you seek not only for Social Security and Medicare trust funds, but also for the military retirement and disability trust fund.

Please be assured, Rep. Taylor, that we will be doing whatever we can do to move this resolution forward. Again, thank you for your efforts. We look forward to working with you on this critical matter.

Warm Regards,

GEORGE A. SMITH,  
Chairman.